

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-2 and 4-33 are pending in the application. Claims 1-2 and 4-10 have been amended. Claim 3 has been cancelled. Claims 11-33 have been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. The specification and Abstract have been revised. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The Examiner's acknowledgement of the priority claim in this application is noted. Applicants are submitting a certified copy of the priority document concurrently herewith.

The objections to the specification, Abstract and claims are believed overcome in view of the above amendments.

The 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of claims 1-5 as being anticipated by Kodama (EP 0582302) is noted. Independent claim 1 has been amended to overcome this rejection. More particularly, amended claim 1 now requires that the coating have a **thickness of from about 10 to about 30 μm** . The Kodama coating is 100-200 μm in thickness. It would not have been obvious to modify the Kodama coating to have a thickness in the claimed range due to the thickness requirements disclosed in page 3, line 52 and the last sentence of Abstract of Kodama.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Kodama. Claims 2, 4-5 and new claims 11-17 depend from claim 1, and are considered patentable over Kodama at least for the reason advanced with respect to amended claim 1.

The 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of claims 1-3 and 6-8 as being anticipated by Johnston (U.S. Patent No. 3,356,108) is noted. Independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended to overcome this rejection. More particularly, amended claims 1 and 6 now require that the part have a **non-metallic** body on which the coating is formed. The Johnston piping is made of metal. The purpose of the Johnston coating is to protect the metal from corrosion. See column 1, lines 13-14 of Johnston. Thus, it would not have been obvious to replace the metal in the piping of Johnston with plastic or

rubber because doing so would render the corrosion-resistant coating redundant. Plastic and rubber are generally corrosion resistant.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 1 and 6 are patentable over Johnston. Claims 2, 7-10 and new claims 11-26 depend from claims 1 or 6, and are considered patentable over Johnston at least for the reason advanced with respect to amended claims 1 and 6.

The 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections of claims 9-10 as being obvious over Johnston in view of other teaching references are noted. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections because the references are not properly combinable in the manner proposed by the Examiner. Claims 9-10 are also patentable because the teaching references fail to teach or suggest the limitation added to amended claim 6 from which claims 9-10 depend.

Claims 2, 4-5 and 7-26 are also patentable on their own merits since these claims recite other features of the invention neither disclosed, taught nor suggested by the applied art.

For example, the applied references fail to disclose, teach or suggest the limitation of claim 7 that the polytetrafluoroethylene coating is deposited by spraying a **liquid** polytetrafluoroethylene. The most relevant reference, i.e., Johnston, teaches at best spraying PTFE in the form of a colloidal suspension. See column 2, lines 57-59 of Johnston.

As to claim 12, the applied references fail to disclose, teach or suggest that the body is a pipe and the coating is formed on an **outer surface of the pipe**.

As to claims 13-15, the applied references fail to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed **O-ring**.

As to claim 17, the applied references fail to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed **valve membrane**.

As to claim 18, the applied references fail to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed step of **molding** the body of the part from rubber or plastic.

As to claim 22, the applied references fail to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed step of **holding the ring at the circumferential groove**.

As to claims 24-25, the applied references fail to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed steps of removing the solvent and baking the coating at the specifically **claimed temperatures**.

New independent claim 27 is patentable over Kodama at least for the reason advanced with respect to amended claim 1. New independent claim 27 is also patentable over Johnston because the reference fails to disclose, teach or suggest a **fuel system** for a motor vehicle, as presently claimed. The remaining applied references also fail to disclose, teach or suggest all limitations of claim 27. Accordingly, claim 27 is patentable over the applied art of record.

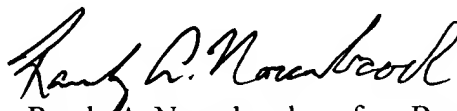
Claims 28-33 depend from claim 27, and are considered patentable at least for the reasons advanced with respect to claim 27. Claims 28-33 are also patentable on their own merits since these claims recite other features of the invention neither disclosed, taught nor suggested by the applied art, as will be apparent to the Examiner upon reviewing these new claims.

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been traversed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

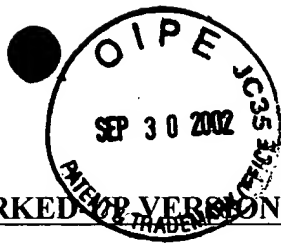
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MARKED FOR VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A part [Part] for a fuel system of a motor vehicle, [intended] said part being adapted to come into contact with hydrocarbons, said part comprising [characterised in that it has]

a body made of a non-metallic material; and

a polytetrafluoroethylene coating [(3, 7) adapted] deposited on a surface of said body to make said part [(1, 4)] substantially impermeable to hydrocarbons;

wherein the coating has a thickness of from about 10 to about 30 μm .

2. (Amended) The part [Part for a motor vehicle] according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein the polytetrafluoroethylene coating [(3)] covers [a wall (2a) intended] the surface adapted to come into contact with hydrocarbons.

4. (Twice Amended) The part [Part for a motor vehicle] according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said [part] body is made of plastic.

5. (Twice Amended) The part [Part for a motor vehicle] according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said [part] body is made of rubber.

6. (Amended) A method [Method] of making [impermeable] a part for a fuel system of a motor vehicle, [intended] said part being adapted to come into contact with hydrocarbons, [characterised in that it includes a] said method comprising the steps of:

preparing a non-metallic body of said part; and

depositing a polytetrafluoroethylene coating [(3, 7)] on at least a surface of said body.

7. (Amended) The method [Method of making impermeable] according to Claim 6, [characterised in that] wherein the polytetrafluoroethylene coating [(3, 7)] is deposited by spraying a liquid polytetrafluoroethylene.

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8. (Twice Amended) The method [Method of making impermeable] according to Claim 6, [characterised in that] wherein the polytetrafluoroethylene coating is formed by depositing a deposited substance which comprises particles of polytetrafluoroethylene, one or more solvents and [optionally] a bonding agent.

9. (Amended) The method [Method of making impermeable] according to Claim 8, [characterised in that] wherein the deposited [product] substance also comprises a pigment [adapted] to colour the polytetrafluoroethylene coating.

10. (Twice Amended) The method [Method of making impermeable] according to Claim 6, [for making a tubular part (1) impermeable, characterised in that it comprises a] wherein said part is a tubular part, said depositing comprising the step of spraying, by means of a spray nozzle [(8)], a liquid polytetrafluoroethylene onto an internal wall [(2a)] of the tubular part [(1),] while the spray nozzle [(8)] and the tubular part [(1)] are being given a relative translational and rotational movement.

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